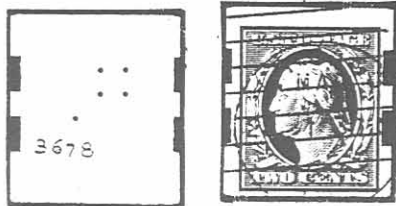


## Schermack Control Perfin Update

Ken Lawrence



Two collectors have sent information that expands usefully the research I presented and the conclusions I drew about usage of Schermack control perfins in my article that appeared in the November/December 1995 *Perfins Bulletin*.

Robert J. Schwerdt of New York reported, "I inherited the Schoeps collection; unless he sold the 5-cent blue before I obtained the collection there was one 5-cent item among his Schermacks. So Dick Mewhinney is probably correct that the '#345' is correct and the '5-cent' is in error."

Canadian collector Jack Brandt wondered if some pin breakage might have changed one type into another that already existed for a different machine. He wrote, "This has happened with a Canadian CPR type."

However, Brandt's most interesting report is one of the missing control codes in the Babson Brothers sequence -- 3678 -- used on mailings posted at Chicago from 1910 to 1912. "I have had this for many years, and reported it to the then U.S. perfin catalog editor. He published it in a set of addendum pages, which I have in my old catalog. Shortly after that he passed away, and the new editor never picked it up. I never got around to sending it in to a newer editor, due

to illness and shortage of time. However, to a 'research' writer I found a little time.

We should all be grateful for this report, because it is truly the missing link. The cancel on Brandt's stamp is CHICAGO ILL MAR 28 1 30 1911, which nestles perfectly between the proven February 1911 latest date for code 37 and the April 1911 earliest date for code 34678. All we are missing is a dated example of the code 378 to verify the sequence, but it is safe to conclude that the vanishing pin sequence occurred as I speculated on the Mailometer machine used by Babson Brothers of Chicago.